

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Clerk, Tony Jay, 11 Wyvern Mews, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 3GZ.
Email clerk@wembdon.org Telephone 07859911204

Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at Wembdon Village Hall on 10th January 2022 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors M Solomon (Chairman), D Claydon, L Edwards, D Gliddon, P Major, M Phillips, and A Reed.

There were no District or County Councillors in attendance.

1/22 To receive any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillors R Webber and J Wellings.

2/22 To receive declarations of any pecuniary interests on items relating to this agenda, which have not been previously declared in the Councillors register of interests.

There were no declarations of interest received.

3/22 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th December 2022.

It was resolved to approve the minutes as being a true record of the meeting (6 in favour, 1 abstention as not present at the meeting).

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a true record of the meeting.

4/22 To invite public speaking.

No member of the public had requested to speak.

5/22 To receive the Clerk's report.

The Parish Council has been informed that Wembdon Post Office will be temporarily closing on Wednesday 23rd February 2022 at 1730 hours. Whilst the Parish Council values the shop and Post Office it is not within the Parish Council's authority to take any action regarding the closure.

If the closure becomes permanent, then the litter bin outside the shop will be moved back to it's original position by the bus shelter.

The election date for the new Somerset Unitary Council and all Parish and Town Councils in Somerset has been confirmed as 6th May.

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The Community Payback team are currently working in the parish on Sundays. A request will be made for the team to clear fallen leaves from footpaths and pavements in the parish.

A planning enforcement matter was raised and will be reported to the Sedgemoor District Council planning enforcement officer.

6/22 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on Highways.

Road surface and hedge damage has been caused by the heavy plant contractor vehicles working on the new housing development in Blake's Lane. This has been reported to Somerset County Council Highways who are dealing with the matter and contacting the developer.

Pot holes have been reported in Moore's Lane and Perry Green Road. A repair order has been issued.

The streetlight problems at the top of Wembdon Hill have still not been resolved after many months. Many street lights are still not working. A local parishioner has reported the malfunctioning lights.

A 20mph flashing sign has been installed in Inwood Road, where no speeding problem exists, but at present none have been installed in Wembdon Rise where a speeding problem does exist. The Clerk will enquire with Somerset County Council Highways as to why the Inwood Road location was chosen for the sign, not Wembdon Rise.

Post meeting note: The 20mph flashing sign was installed as part of a county wide programme to install these signs in the close proximity of schools.

County Councillor Caswell is arranging a site meeting with the leader of Somerset County Council to discuss the dangers to pedestrians at the zebra crossing of Wembdon Rise.

A site meeting is being held on Friday 14th January with Somerset County Council officers and other bodies to finalise what actions would need to be taken to complete the adoption of the access to the Village Hall from the NDR.

Post meeting note: The site meeting was postponed as one of the Somerset County Council officers had contracted Covid.

A Somerset County Council Highways Engineer has been working on a Sandford Hill road safety improvement plan since the site meeting that took place in July 2021. The Clerk will once again enquire with the highways engineer when the details of the plan can be expected.

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Somerset County Council Highways are still not notifying the Parish Council when road works are going to take place, despite repeated requests for them to do so. The Clerk will again request that the Parish Council is informed so we can notify parishioners.

A parishioner has commented that one of the restored fingerposts could now be a potential hazard to horse riders. Councillor Gliddon confirmed that the fingerpost had simply been restored to its original position and it was agreed that no action will be taken.

7/22 To receive a report from Councillor Phillips on Footpaths and Verges.

A broken and rotten gate and wooden fingerpost sign at the junction of footpaths 34/21 and 34/22 has been reported on the Rights of Way website.

Messages have been received congratulating the Parish Council contractor for the excellent job he has done when installing steps at a slippery footpath in Moore's Lane.

8/22 To receive a report on the Playing Fields and Common.

The repairs to the swings have been carried out.

The grant application process is continuing for the funding of the accessible swings.

New and larger litter bins have been installed on the playing fields.

9/22 To receive a report from Councillor Edwards on the Parklands.

Four replacement bird boxes have been ordered to replace the ones which have been stolen.

Installing a wooden framed compost tip is being considered.

Soil and bark will be required on the prairie area. There will be an agenda item for the February Parish Council meeting 'To consider a report containing recommendations for the prairie meadow area of the Parklands and a budget figure for any work agreed'.

10/22 To receive a report from Councillor Phillips regarding the Village Hall.

A new sound control system has been installed to control the decibel level of music events in the hall.

11/22 To receive a report on the Parish Paper.

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The next edition will be published at the end of January and will contain 24 pages.

12/22 To receive a report from Councillor Claydon on Allotments.

There is currently one vacant plot which will be leased to a new tenant shortly.

13/22 To receive a report from Councillor Gliddon on SID results and Speed Watch.

The mobile SID has been moved around the parish on a regular basis. The Councillors considered that the installation of the SIDs and the work of the team moving these between locations to be a great success as despite a few drivers completely ignoring speed limits. The average vehicle speeds are less than they were a year ago.

At Sandford Hill the average speed of vehicles leaving the parish was 38 mph, (in a 40 mph speed limit area). The top speed recorded was 75 mph. The average inbound speed was 33 mph with a top speed of 65 mph.

The speedwatch team will be working at key times when it has been identified that speeding is taking place.

14/22 To consider the relocation of one of the solar SIDS on Wembdon Rise.

A new permanent SID was installed on Wembdon Rise heading eastbound towards the zebra crossing, but a request has been received for it to be shielded or relocated as the flashing of the SID is causing extreme distress to an elderly local resident. A suitable site has been identified and the SID will be moved.

15/22 To receive a report on the Village Hall Community Youth Project.

The upstairs room conversion work is progressing well. The electrical first fix will be taking place shortly. Most of the wall stud work has been installed. The team has been successful in obtaining a grant for a heating and ventilation system.

A lot of volunteer work is taking place. Travis Perkins has donated a significant amount of materials.

16/22 To receive a report regarding the Transport Forum and the EDF Forum.

There have been no meetings held recently.

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17/22 To consider the use of chemical herbicides and insecticides for weed control purposes in the Parish.

This will be adjourned until the March Parish Council meeting. A working party of Councillors will prepare a report to be considered, which will include recommendations on the control of weeds throughout the parish.

In the meantime, no chemical herbicides and insecticides will be used in the Parklands.

18/22 To note all statutory payments made since the last meeting (see minute 181/20).

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Avalonian Landscapes	Maintenance contract December 2021	1417.00

The statutory payments were noted.

19/22 To note the following non-statutory payments.

Payee	Detail	Amount £
Tony Jay	Clerk's expenses December 2021	145.90
GB Sports	Repairs to playground swings	1573.98

The non-statutory payments were noted.

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

20/22 To review all Parish Council policies.

All policies had been updated and circulated to all Councillors.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the updated policies which will be posted on the Parish Council website.

21/22 To receive any matters of report.

Kathryn Searle has resigned her position as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk will notify Sedgemoor District Council of the casual vacancy for a Councillor.

22/22 Date of next meeting: 14th February 2022.

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay